

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing system for distributing a content to another device via a network, comprising:

first receiving means for receiving application information of said content from said other device via said network;

reading means for reading said content based on content identifying information included in said application information when said application information of said content is received by said first receiving means;

format converting means for converting said content read by said reading means into data in a predetermined format based on format identifying information included in said application information; and

distributing means for distributing said content which is converted into the data in the predetermined format by said format converting means, to said device via said network.

2. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

second receiving means for receiving transaction information of said content; and

authenticating means for authenticating said transaction information when the transaction information of

said content is received by said second receiving means,
wherein said reading means reads out said content based
on a result authenticated by said authenticating means.

3. A system according to Claim 2, wherein said
transaction information includes a credit card number or an
account number.

4. A system according to Claim 1, wherein said format
identifying information includes information which
designates an encoding system and/or encoding rate of said
content.

5. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
calculating means for calculating a use charge for said
content based on said application information which is
received by said first receiving means; and

accounting means for accounting said use charge which
is calculated by said calculating means, corresponding to
said other device.

6. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
detecting means for detecting a busy status on said
network,

wherein said format converting means converts said

content into data in a predetermined format based on said busy status which is detected by said detecting means.

7. An information processing method for distributing a content to another device via a network comprising:

a receiving step of receiving application information of said content from said other device via said network;

a reading control step of controlling an operation for reading said content based on content identifying information included in said application information when the application information of said content is received in said receiving step;

a format converting step of converting said content read in said reading control step into data in a predetermined format based on format identifying information included in said application information; and

a distributing step of distributing said content which is converted into the data in the predetermined format in said format converting step, to said device via said network.

8. A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program in an information processing system for distributing a content to another device via a network,

wherein said program comprises:

a receiving step of receiving application information

of said content from said other device via said network;

a reading control step of controlling an operation for reading said content based on content identifying information included in said application information when the application information of said content is received in said receiving step;

a format converting step of converting said content read in said reading control step into data in a predetermined format based on format identifying information included in said application information; and

a distributing step of distributing said content which is converted into the data in the predetermined format in said format converting step, to said device via said network.